United Nations E/CN.5/2017/L.4

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
8 February 2017

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-fifth session
1-10 February 2017
Agenda item 3 (b) (iii)
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups: World Programme of Action for Youth

Germany*, Hungary*, Ireland*, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Senegal* and Spain*: draft resolution

Policies and programmes involving youth

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and resolution 62/126 of 18 December 2007, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth, as contained in the annexes thereto, and acknowledging that the Programme of Action provides Member States with a useful policy framework and practical guidelines for improving the situation of youth,

Recalling also the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Recalling further the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998, and emphasizing the importance of the twentieth anniversary of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, being marked in 2018, and the need for a meaningful assessment of the progress made in youth development and the challenges that remain,

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Please recycle

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which for the first time the Assembly recognizes children and youth as agents of change,

Recalling also the high-level event held by the General Assembly on 29 May 2015 to mark the twentieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth, which offered an important opportunity for Member States and other relevant stakeholders to take stock of progress made in its implementation, as well as to identify gaps and challenges and the way forward for its full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Emphasizing the important role that the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth has played in addressing the needs of youth, as well as, inter alia, acting as a harmonizer with different United Nations entities, Governments, civil society, youth organizations, academia and media with the aim of enhancing, empowering and strengthening the position of young people within and outside of the United Nations system,

Reiterating that all 15 priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth are interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

Stressing that the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the achievement of all of the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, require the full and effective participation of youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other civil society organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels,

Recalling the proposed set of indicators for the World Programme of Action for Youth, contained in the report of the Secretary-General,[1] to assist Member States in assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action and thus the evolution of the situation of youth,

Acknowledging the important contributions made by the Youth Forum of the Economic and Social Council to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Acknowledging also the positive contribution of youth, as agents and beneficiaries of development, to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society, as a way of contributing to a progressively fairer distribution of opportunities for youth, which will constitute a step forward to economic development, social justice, social integration and equity,

Emphasizing the need to substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship and to ensure, by 2030, that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy,

Emphasizing also the need to empower youth in order to achieve sustainable development, and stressing, in this regard, the commitment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to substantially reduce by 2020 the proportion of youth

[1] E/CN.5/2013/8.

not in employment, education or training and to develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment,

Taking note of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth and, in this regard, emphasizing the important role of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth Employment,

Acknowledging the important link between migration and development, recognizing that migration brings both opportunities and challenges to countries of origin, transit and destination, to migrants and to the global community, and recognizing the responsibility of States to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants effectively, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women, young people and children,

Recognizing the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

Stressing that increased coordination and collaboration among United Nations entities, including other regional and international organizations working on youth, contribute to making the youth-related work of the United Nations system more effective,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth lies with Member States, and urges Governments, in consultation with youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to develop holistic and integrated youth policies and programmes based on the Programme of Action and all the internationally agreed development frameworks, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to evaluate them regularly as part of the follow-up action on and implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to continue the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, including its 15 interrelated priority areas, as a policy framework with practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, while taking into account the views of youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations as part of the effective participation of youth in society;

4. *Encourages* Member States to develop comprehensive policies, programmes and action plans focused on the best interests of youth, particularly the poor and those who are vulnerable and marginalized, to address all aspects of youth development, in line with the World Programme of Action for Youth and to realize the opportunity afforded by the demographic dividend of the largest number of young people ever in the history of humankind;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to promote gender equality, the empowerment of young women and girls and the full realization of all human rights on an equal footing with men and boys;

[2] E/CN.5/2017/5.

6. *Also calls upon* Member States to consider, on a voluntary basis, the set of indicators proposed in the report of the Secretary-General for their selection and adaptation in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, paying particular attention to young women and girls and those who are vulnerable or marginalized, including indigenous youth, youth in rural areas, youth with disabilities and young migrants, taking into account the national social and economic circumstances in each country;

7. *Further calls upon* Member States to collect, on a continuing and voluntary basis, reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated by age and sex, to measure progress towards the implementation and monitoring of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and in this regard encourages Member States to engage youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations in the collection, analysis and dissemination of data in the process of assessing progress and evaluating youth policies;

8. *Urges* Member States to ensure that youth issues are adequately addressed in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and underlines the importance of closely consulting with and actively involving youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations in its implementation;

9. *Encourages* Member States to ensure a coherent and mutually reinforcing approach while implementing all relevant agreed frameworks related to youth, including the World Programme of Action for Youth and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[3] in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

10. *Urges* Member States to ensure the realization and full enjoyment by all young people of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other international human rights instruments, in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

11. *Reiterates* that access to quality formal and non-formal education, at all levels, including, as appropriate, catch-up and literacy education, including in information and communications technologies for those who did not receive formal education, information and communications technologies and volunteerism are important factors that enable young people to acquire the relevant skills and build their capacities, including for employability and entrepreneurial development, and obtain decent and productive work, and calls upon Member States to take the action necessary to ensure that young people have access to such services and opportunities;

12. *Encourages* Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly, in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and at relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principle of gender balance and non-discrimination, and, inter alia, to consider establishing a national youth

[3] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development*, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

delegate programme, and emphasizes that youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process that ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries;

13. *Calls upon* Member States to encourage and promote youth-led and youth-focused organizations through financial, educational and technical support and promotion of their activities;

14. *Urges* Member States to promote the full and effective participation of young people, youth-led and youth-focused organizations in relevant decision-making processes, including in developing, implementing and monitoring policies, programmes and activities, including those related to the World Programme of Action for Youth;

15. *Reaffirms* that the strengthening of international cooperation regarding youth, capacity-building, the enhancement of dialogue, mutual understanding and the active participation of young people are crucial elements in efforts towards achieving the eradication of poverty, full employment and social inclusion, and in this regard stresses the importance of promoting access to health-care services, nationally owned social protection and social services as an important instrument for empowering youth;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the increased collaboration among United Nations entities on youth through the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, calls upon United Nations entities to develop additional measures to support local, national, regional and international efforts in addressing challenges hindering youth development and well-being, and in this regard encourages close collaboration with Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, particularly youth-led and youth-focused organizations;

17. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to bring the voices of young people to the United Nations system in the areas of participation, advocacy, partnerships and harmonization, inter alia by considering appointing special representatives, envoys or advisors, while working closely with Governments, United Nations entities, civil society, youth organizations, academia and the media, to empower and strengthen the position of young people within and outside of the United Nations system, including by conducting country visits, at the request of the Member States concerned;

18. *Calls upon* donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations, taking into account the need for greater geographical and gender balance of youth representation, as well as to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development, at its fifty-seventh session, a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution, including progress on the achievements and challenges in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, in consultation with Member States, as well as with the relevant specialized

agencies, funds and programmes and the regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, including the Youth Forum of the Economic and Social Council, and encourages the Secretariat to consult, as appropriate, with youth-led and youth-focused organizations.